

# Government Intervention, Subjective Norms and the Entrepreneurial Intentions of Nigerian University Graduates

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## ABSTRACT

The economic situation presently in Nigeria is such that there is massive youth unemployment and underemployment in Nigeria. The situation as a result has made it difficult to access assistance from family and friends. The main objective of this paper was the investigation of the effect of government interventions and subjective norms on the entrepreneurial intentions of graduates of Nigeria Universities. A sequential mixed research design was adopted. A structured questionnaire was used to elicit responses from graduates of two universities located in Anambra State, Nigeria. A census of the 391 graduates was conducted. Interviews were conducted using ten selected purposively graduates from the sample. Statistical Package for Social Sciences was used to carry out moderated and mediated regression analyses. The data collected were analysed to enable the assessment of the impact of government intervention and subjective norm (predictor) on entrepreneurial intention (dependent variable). The results showed significant mediated and moderated relationships which implied that government intervention explained the relationship between this predictor and subjective norm, and the entrepreneurial intention. It was the finding of the study that there is a need for government to urgently ensure a conducive environment that provides the improvement of the economic situation, thereby generally giving hope to the youths and enabling family and friends to be able to encourage, advise, and give financial support to the graduates. Government should be sincere and equitable in the distribution of intervention programmes targeting youths and the graduates and should guarantee equity in the implementation of government programmes.

**KEYWORDS:** Subjective Norm, Government Intervention, Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurial Intention, and Entrepreneurship Study

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Agu and Ayogu (2015), have posited in respect to entrepreneurship development that it is “worrisome that despite the accessibility of technology and government contributions towards entrepreneurship development, entrepreneurship in Nigeria has not performed creditably well and hence the expected vital and vibrant role Entrepreneurship will play in the economic growth and development in Nigeria has been constrained.” These constraints arise as a result of the challenges entrepreneurs face in Nigeria “such as lack of knowledge of technology, unfair competition, multiple taxes, unfavourable monetary policies, uneasy access to funding, inadequate market research, unfavourable fiscal policies, poor policy implementation, which have constrained the development of entrepreneurship in Nigeria”.

To tackle the problem of poor policy implementation, the National Universities Commission in 2011 introduced the Basic Minimum Standards (BMAS) for a degree programme in Nigerian Universities. This guideline was geared towards ensuring sound implementation of the policy of encouragement of youths to go into entrepreneurship. In an attempt at proffering solutions, Adiak, and Katurab (2014:110) have opined that: “Entrepreneurship is seen not

only as anti-dote to the astronomically growing socio-economic problem of unemployment but particularly as the engine of economic growth and stability and by extension, the prosperity of nations”. With the education acquired by the graduates, it is expected amongst other things that the graduates would have acquired the necessary knowledge to overcome some of the challenges that the SMEs are currently facing like lack of adequate market research and technological knowledge.

### 1.1. Statement of the problem

Though the government has established this entrepreneurship programme in universities there are still serious economic problems that affect the activities of young graduates in the Nigerian economy, the rate of inflation is above one digit and rising. The unemployment rate is on the rise, and the general well-being of citizens is getting eroded by the day. The government programmes of intervention in the SME sector seem not to be impacting on the SMEs and the young graduates. Capital is still a major problem for young people. This has affected the ability of family, other relations, and friends to assist the young graduates. All these are bound to have consequences on the perception of the graduates about their ability to become entrepreneurs. In

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particular, the ability of family and friends to be sources of assistance was expected to play an important role in improving entrepreneurship intentions of graduates through their subjective norms which is one of the three predictors of the Theory of Planned Behaviour. Government interventions in respect of entrepreneurship in Nigeria were intended to ensure that the graduates' perception about the three predictors of TPB so there is a need to carry out an evaluation of these assumed impacts on the subjective norms of the graduates towards becoming entrepreneurial.

### 1.2. Objective of the study

The main objective of this research effort is to investigate the impact of government intervention and subjective norms on the entrepreneurial intentions of Nigerian university graduates.

1. To examine the effect of Subjective Norm on the entrepreneurial intentions of university graduates.
2. To find out what the impacts of Government Interventions are on the subjective norms of university graduates

### 1.3. Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated for this study:

Ho<sub>1</sub> Effect of subjective norms on the entrepreneurial intentions of university graduates is not significant.

Ho<sub>2</sub> The impact of government interventions on the subjective norms of university graduates towards their entrepreneurial intentions is not significant.

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1. Conceptual Framework:

Ajzen (2008) posited that "It can be seen that the theory of planned behavior represents a "reasoned action" approach to consumer behavior because it assumes that intentions and behavior in this domain follow reasonably from the behavioral, normative, and control beliefs people hold about the behavior." Saraih, Aris, Mutalib, Ahmad, and Amlus (2018) stated that "Attitude towards the behaviour, social norm concerning the behaviour, and perceived control over the behaviour are usually found to predict behavioural intentions with a high degree of accuracy. Behavioural intention referred to an indication of an individual's readiness to perform a given behaviour". They state that "perceived social pressure to perform or not to perform the entrepreneurial behaviour may be triggered from family, friends, teachers and other possible role models." (Saraih, et al, 2018) the behavioural intention in the case of entrepreneurship is Entrepreneurial Intention.

Empirically, results have been mixed in respect of Subjective Norm. In the case of the study conducted by Awan and Ahmad, (2017:19) "Subjective norms proved to be insignificant in this research and does not influence student's intentions in any manner." In Nigeria Muhammad, Aliyu, and Ahmed (2015:239) obtained findings that indicated that subjective norm and other predictors had a significant impact on Entrepreneurial Intention (EI). In addition, it was observed that other factors had an indirect relationship along with these predictors with EI. These other factors take the form of demographic factors government interventions is assumed to be one of these factors. Baron and David (1986:1174; Aliyu, and Ahmed, 2015:239)

In respect of government interventions, entrepreneurship policy may be part of a macro policy that both aims at developing entrepreneurs while making this development

sustainable (Ramlogan and Rigby, 2012). According to Ramlogan and Rigby (2012:4) government interventions seek to improve the performance of economic actor's policy on entrepreneurship is focused on the entrepreneur to increase the number of economic actors generally hoping to increase the level of availability of entrepreneurs. Such policies usually include the provision of assistance like finance (loans and grants) and counseling activities to entrepreneurs before, at the start-up, and after start-up; while facilitating financial assistance, enhancing technology and access to technology, and improving access to physical infrastructure, or advice.

### 3. Methodology:

This research adopted a mixed sequential research design. The respondents were graduates of departments of BSc. entrepreneurship programmes of two universities in Anambra State, Southeast Nigeria. The population of this study was 495 while the sample size was determined at 391. A self-administered instrument was designed with a 7-point Likert scale ranging from Very Strongly Disagree (1) to Very Strongly Agree (7). A pilot study was conducted to test the reliability and validity of this instrument. For reliability, Cronbach's Alpha of .93 for Subjective Norm and Government Intervention .74 was obtained indicating that the scales for the items were reliable. Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy (KMO) for the predictors; subjective Norms and Government Intervention were .7, and .6 respectively and this validated the scales as these met the minimum values .6 recommended by (Rueda, Moriano and Liñán, 2015).

### 3.1. Presentation and Analysis Data:

#### 3.1.1. Demographic Characteristics of Sample

The following gives an overview of the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics as graduates of BSc. entrepreneurship studies and the sample information in focus for this study.

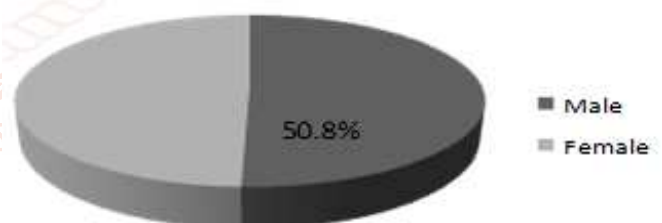


Figure 1 Gender of Respondents

Source: Survey 2021

There were slightly more male than female respondent graduates surveyed, though the difference (1%) is relatively very small (figure 1).

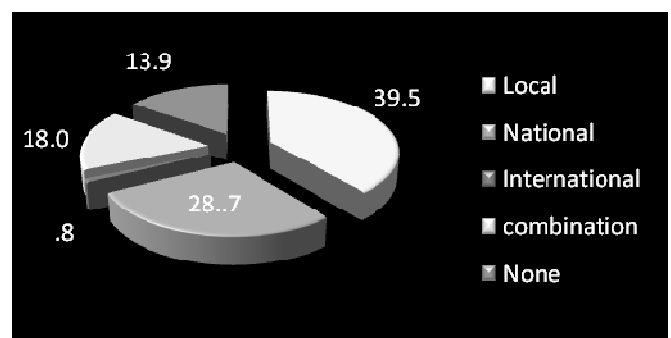
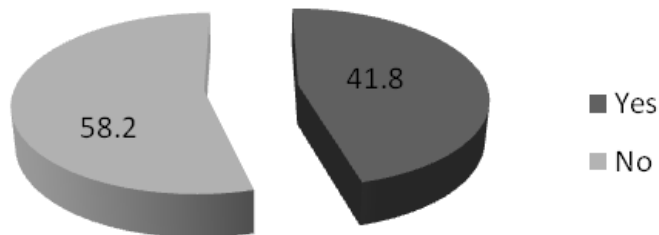


Figure 2 Types of Seminars/ Trainings Attended by Graduate after School

Source: Survey 2021

The majority took the option of attending seminars instead of resumption of formal academic education beyond BSc. level in a significant manner (figure 2).



**Figure 3 Respondents' Possible Access to Capital**  
Source: Survey 2021

The majority of respondents had no access to capital for business. (figure 3) This will entail raising their capital by depending on their creativity to the argument for the required sums thereby reducing viability and growth of their start-ups where one exists.

### 3.2. Data Analyses

Government Interventions were introduced alongside Subjective Norm to Entrepreneurial Intention in the moderation regression analysis. These analyses were conducted using the graduates' responses. Tables 3.1 and 3.2 below contain data for the next moderated analysis.

#### 3.2.1. Subjective Norm as a Factor Determining Entrepreneurial Intention

Subjective Norm linked to graduates' behavioural intention towards becoming an entrepreneur, ensures actualisation of the starting of new business and other entrepreneurial activities. This SN is determined with the use of the items  $S_1$ ,  $S_5$  and  $S_8$  constituting S in Table 3.1 below. This variable "S" is calculated using SPSS.

**Table 3.1 Distribution of Respondents to Questions for Scales to Determine Model: Subjective Norm Towards Entrepreneurship.**

Independent Variable									
Subjective Norm S		VSA	SA	A	U	D	SD	VSD	Mean
$S_1$	People that I know encourage me to become entrepreneurial	22	38	32	7	18	4	1	5.19
$S_5$	My friends say that I should have my own firm	25	34	45	10	7	1	0	5.73
$S_8$	My brothers and sisters are in support of my career choice	44	26	36	7	9	0	0	6.04
Total		94	98	123	22	38	0	0	-
Overall Mean									5.65

Source: field survey 2021

#### 3.2.2. Data Presentation: Government Interventions as Determinant of the Predictor of Entrepreneurial Intention

Government Interventions as a determinant are also assumed to have an indirect relationship through the three predictors of behavioural intention. GI is determined with the use of the items  $M2_3$ ,  $M2_5$  and  $M2_8$  constituting M2 in Table 3.2 below. This variable "M2" is also calculated using SPSS

**Table 3.2: Distribution of Respondents to Questions for Scales to Determine Model: Interventions as Determinant**

M2									
Government Interventions		VSA	SA	A	U	D	SD	VSD	Mean
$M2_3$	I received financial support from government/ agency during my stay in the university	1	0	10	0	39	16	57	2.11
$M2_5$	Government sponsored workshops and seminars for us during our undergraduate days	2	3	19	8	36	17	37	2.77
$M2_8$	I have received funding from government sources	1	0	5	0	40	19	57	2.02
Total		4	3	34	8	96	41	135	
Overall Mean									2.30

Source: Field survey 2021

#### 3.2.3. Data Presentation: the Dependent Variable

The items that go to calculate the dependent variables used in the multiple regression analysis with the use of SPSS version 20.0 are contained in Table 3.3 below.

**Table 3.3: Distribution of Respondents to Questions for Scales to Determine Model: Entrepreneurial Intention (EI) Towards Entrepreneurship.**

Dependent Variable									
Behavioural Intentions I		VSA	SA	A	U	D	SD	VSD	Mean
$I_4$	To realize my own dream is important	59	24	35	1	2	1	0	6.10
$I_5$	It is important for me to create something new	62	21	36	3	0	0	0	6.16
Total		121	45	71	4	2	0	0	
Overall Mean									6.13

Source: Field survey 2021

## 4. Qualitative Data Presentation

This section presents data obtained from the qualitative data emanating from the structured interview and the unstructured interviews. They are discussed in the next sections



#### 4.1. Qualitative Data Presentation: Subjective Norm as a Factor Determining Behavioural Intentions:

The second factor in the TPB model is the Subjective Norm. The interview was also conducted in a way to elicit information about this predictor. The following statements were obtained from the content analysis of the unstructured interview records;

"We are trying to develop our skills with the help of our lecturers. The lecturers I had were the best that is why I keep coming back to consult them. I brought out the plan and went out to meet people with it; without the plan, people will not take you seriously; so with the people and my family I raised the fund; You have your family, your friends, and relations and loved ones who are very supportive. My support comes from only one source, that is, family and friends. I always get support from family and friends. My mother is my business partner and the business is a family business. Friends through encouragement and chip in some fund, no matter how small it is, they are much appreciated. I was always encouraged by my family and friends to go for it. My family has been a big help financially to me. My colleagues I know started their own business with help of their families with the current economic situation caused by the government; we have problems with the clients as their purchasing power is diminishing. My sister asked why I should not go looking for a job.

I remembered one lecturer told me that he will be disappointed if I went with a file in hand looking for a job. I have to campaign, advertise to let people know what product I have and sample their opinion. People may think that entrepreneurship is a new course, but you check around on what you see who are those that created them, who are the owners and how are they doing? They are entrepreneurs".

These statements have revealed several issues concerning subjective norms. The first revolves around the graduates' perception of the support that has been given by three groups of people, family members, relations, other loved ones, and friends. These people have had a tremendous influence on the current view of the respondents. These people have offered valuable support in terms of financing, advice, participation in the family business, and motivation to sustain the entrepreneurship spirit and intentions. The second set of people is their former lecturers who they hold in high esteem. They have from time to time been consulting them after graduation.

In general, they feel that people think that entrepreneurship is very new and that they do not realise that entrepreneurship is all around them. People have also encouraged them to look for work, thereby discouraging them from self-employment. So they do not understand why the graduates take the path of owning their businesses and sacrificing so much time when they could look for jobs. They blame the government for the economic situation prevalent in Nigeria currently. The graduates blame the government for reducing the ability of their friends and family to assist them because of diminishing incomes, unemployment, and insecurity arising from crimes. They do not expect any assistance from NGOs and other such bodies.

#### 4.2. Data Presentation: Government Interventions as Determinant of the Predictor

The second presumed moderator is the Government Interventions. This is the effort of the government at influencing the graduates' subjective norms. The interview data were also analysed using content analysis. The following statements were generated:

"I have received government funding, Have also applied for COVID-19 Fund but have yet to receive any response It is not easy to get any government - federal government funding; if you wait for the government to support you, you will wait forever So, we are not depending on them. The government did not help; there were no loans from the government. Most of us look at the other side of the coin. Over the years, there is little or nothing they (government) have done; .There is a very high rate of corruption going on with the government agencies and their programmes for example there is this youth empowerment programme the state government did whereby after skill acquisition training the participants are assisted, but they were given half the assistance and made to sign for the full value of the assistance. This is corruption. The curriculum of the government universities is adequate, however, the universities lack funding to increase the availability of facilities for practical; the lecturers are ok but there is need to employ more and offer them more training".

This variable had two distinct effects from the analysis, first, it affected their mindset to know what to expect from the government, understand the economic situation, and the actions they are to take to get started and create their businesses. Even those under forms of employment are there to generate capital and experience.

As a result of the unemployment situation and lack of capital, the government has been viewed very negatively. The majority of the respondents expressed the feeling that the government had never assisted them except the university BSc. Programme that is offered by the public universities they attended. Because of the very high prevalence of corruption, they have been disillusioned about the prospects of getting assistance in terms of funding for their start-ups and keeping them sustainably. They also feel that the universities have not been adequately funded to give required practical training in the universities. The government has not targeted them specifically for assistance. This a very sore point in that government had set up this programme and that they were to assist the graduates after graduation as they were informed in school. They are only four hundred and ninety-five of them and yet they have not been targeted like those under the SMEs' policy.

#### 4.3. Analysis of Research Questions/Hypotheses Testing

The study's two hypotheses were analysed using simple, multivariate statistical methods to offer empirical answers to the research hypotheses of the study. Data cleaning and testing were conducted to check for violations of the multiple regression analysis and there no indications of violations.

The moderator -Government interventions- was applied to the Subjective Norm of the graduate entrepreneur respondents in the moderated regression analysis. The tables 3.4 and 3.5 below contain data for the next moderated regression analysis; Model summary data point towards these results:  $R^2 = .235$ ;  $F(1, 115) = 33.868$ , with  $.000 < p$ .

Model one (Subjective Norm and moderator): Results of the moderated regression in Table 3.4 are as follows; One predictor presented the following results, Subjective Norm ( $\beta = .308, .000 < p$ ). This indicated the presence of a positive and very significant relationship between the EI and Subjective Norm variables.

Model Two: (Subjective Norm and moderator): Results of the moderated regression in Tables 3.4 and 3.5 are as follows;  $R^2 = .266$ ;  $F(2, 115) = 19.770$ , with  $.035 < p$ . The model has a good fit. Two predictors presented the following results, Subjective Norm ( $\beta = .271, .000 < p$ ) and Government Interventions ( $\beta = -.111, .035 < p$ ). This indicated the presence of a positive, strong, and significant relationship between Subjective Norm and EI; and a negative but significant relationship between EI and the moderator.

**Table 3.4; Moderated Regression with Subjective Norm, Public Sector Marketing/ Policy Interventions, and Interaction; Model Summary**

Model	R Square	Adjusted R Square	F	Change statistics	
				R Square Change	Sig F Change
1	.235 <sup>a</sup>	.228	33.868	.235	.000
2	.266 <sup>b</sup>	.253	19.770	.031	.035
3	.303 <sup>c</sup>	.284	15.643	.037	.019
a. Predictors (Constant) Subjective Norm					
b. Predictors (Constant), Subjective Norm, Government Interventions					
c. predictors (Constant), Subjective Norm, Government Interventions, Subjective Norm and Government Interventions interaction					
Source: Field survey 2021					

Model Three: Results of the moderated regression in tables 3.4 and 3.5 are displayed Model  $R^2 = .584$ ;  $F(3, 113) = 50.567$ , with  $.005 < p$ . Three predictors presented the following results; there is also uniqueness in this model because the intercept is negative. Behavioural Control is ( $\beta = .489, .000 < p$ ), Public Sector Marketing/ Policy Interventions ( $\beta = -.372, .002 < p$ ) and interaction predictor ( $\beta = -.019, .005 < p$ ).

**Table 3.5; Moderated Regression with Subjective Norm, Public Sector Marketing/ Policy Interventions, and Interaction; Coefficients**

Model		Unstandardised Coefficients		Standardised Coefficients	t	sig
		B	Std Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	7.083	.920		7.701	.000
	Subjective Norm	.308	.053	.485	5.829	.000
2	(Constant)	8.447	1.107		7.628	.001
	Subjective Norm	.271	.055	.427	4.942	.000
	Government Interventions	-.111	.052	-.185	-2.138	.035
3	(Constant)	14.226	2.655		5.359	.000
	Subjective Norm	-.051	.145	-.080	-.350	.727
	Government Interventions	-.998	.375	-1.664	-2.658	.009
	Subjective Norm and Government Interventions Interaction	.051	.021	1.418	2.385	.019
a. Dependent Variable: Entrepreneurial Intention						
Source; Field survey 2021						

Next, we explore the possible mediating effects of the two new variables. The three regression analyses are done and presented in the following Table 3.6:

**Table 3.6: Three Regression Analysis for Mediation Test for Subjective Norm**

Mediator	Model		
Government Interventions	$M = \beta_0 + \beta_6 X$	$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_5 X$	$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_7 X + \beta_8 M$
$R^2_{01}$	.099	.235	.266
$F, sig_{01}$	12,043, .001	33,868, .000	19,770, .000
Unstd. Beta6, sig6	-297, .001		
Unstd. Beta5, sig5		308, .000	
Unstd. Beta7, sig7			.271, .000
Unstd. Beta8, sig8			-.111, .035
Source: Field survey 2021			

The mediation analysis for the assumed mediator, Government Interventions, in respect of Subjective Norm; analysis results in Table 3.6 lead to the following: In the case of the assumed mediator PSMPi on SN;

First, the independent variable attitude has a significant effect on the assumed mediator PSMPi; therefore we proceed to the second analysis. The second regression model reveals that the independent variable significantly affects the dependent

variable.  $F(33,868, .000)$  beta (.308 .000), therefore, we continue to the third analysis. Both the independent variable beta (.271, .000) and the mediator beta (-.111, .035) significantly affect the dependent variable Entrepreneurship Intentions. We also considered the effect of the independent variable in the third model  $F(19,770, .000)$  beta (.271, .000); this is less than the SN effect in the second model on the dependent variable  $F(33,868, .000)$ , beta (.308, .000), therefore, this indicated presence of mediation.

#### 4.4. Test of Hypotheses

The hypotheses of this study were tested employing the results of the moderation and mediation regression analysis results in the section above. Hypotheses one and were subjected to moderated regression analysis (MRA). These produced moderating effects in the case of Government Intervention and the predictor SN of the TPB model in the course of this study. Also, the mediation regression analysis has produced results that indicate mediation with the introduction of the Government Intervention and Subjective Norm.

Therefore, we use the results of these two regressions, Moderation and Mediated Regression Analyses to test the hypotheses. The tests and results are contained in Tables 3.7 and. 3.8;

Next we test using the mediation analyses results; these appear in the next table;

**Table 3.7: Results of Moderation Regression Effects Test Involving Predictor/ Moderators**

Model	Mediator	Hypothesis	Relationship	Supported/Rejected
3 <sub>s2</sub>	None	H <sub>01</sub>	Subjective Norm ► EI	Supported/
3 <sub>c2</sub>	Government Interventions	H <sub>02</sub>	Subjective Norm ► EI	Supported

Sources: Field survey 2021

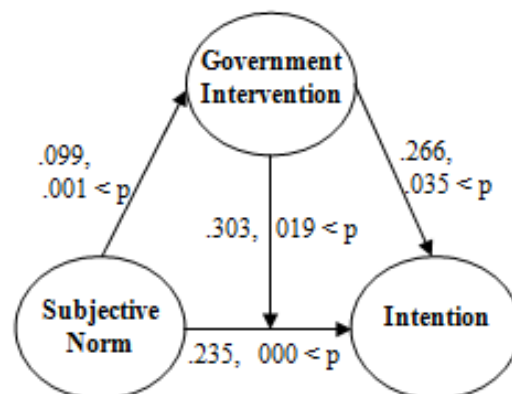
**Table 3.8: Results of Mediation Regression Effects Test Involving Predictor/ Mediators**

Model	Mediator	Hypothesis	Relationship	Supported/ Rejected
3 <sub>s2</sub>	None	H <sub>01</sub>	Subjective Norm ► EI	Supported
3 <sub>s1</sub>	Government Interventions	H <sub>02</sub>	Subjective Norm ► EI	Supported

Sources: Field survey 2021

Inspection of Table 3.8 has indicated that there were three significant relationships; mediation, moderation, and direct relationship between the moderator/mediator variable Government Intervention, Subjective Norm, and the Entrepreneurial Intentions of the graduates in the TPB model.

The study model is therefore represented by the figure below:



**Figure 4. Study Model: - Extended Theory of Planned Behaviour; Subjective Norm with Moderated and Mediated Government Intervention Relationships.**

Source: Field survey 2021

The moderating effect of government intervention is greater than the mediating effect and when government intervention is applied the subjective norm has a greater effect but if the government is absent then the effect reduces but becomes more significant. The interview results confirm this significant relationship mediated/moderated of Government Intervention, the subjective norm with EI, and offer some possible explanations as to its root cause and implications. The interviewees stated that the government is responsible for creating an environment that is making it difficult for the main source of assistance (family, friends, and other relations) to offer assistance to them. Even their customers' spending powers have been adversely affected by the economic situation. This may also be the reason explaining the only Mediation effect (Subjective Norm on GI) in the study model. The perception of the graduates is that government can alter the situation of their first line support system (family and friends)

## 5. Summary, Conclusion, and Recommendation

### 5.1. Summary of Findings

A. The study has confirmed the theory of planned behaviour with one predictor; Subjective Norms having effects on the Entrepreneurship Intentions.

B. The findings in terms of Government Intervention (GI), indicated the presence of significant moderation and mediation which explained the relationship involving subjective norm and the Entrepreneurship Intention.

- C. The GI had a significant direct moderating impact on the effect of the Subjective Norm of the graduates of entrepreneurship studies programmes of the universities studied. So this variable is found to be a moderator of the graduate's Subjective Norm towards EI.
- D. The GI had a significant Mediation effect on the EI of the graduates under study. So this variable is also found to be a direct Mediator of EI of the graduates and
- E. The GI was significantly mediated by the SN of the BSc. entrepreneurship studies graduates of the universities under study. So this variable is also found to be a mediator.

## 5.2. Implications of Findings

The following implications were indicated from the findings and conclusions of this study:

- A. The three predictors; Subjective Norm; affected the Entrepreneurship Intentions; this implied that the theory is very robust when applied to studies of this nature. The entrepreneurial spirit of the graduate has been significantly affected. They exhibited significant awareness of the importance of their family and friends as sources of assistance while embarking on their quest of becoming entrepreneurs.
- B. As envisaged by policymakers of the current university entrepreneurship programme. The objective of increasing the supply of entrepreneurs from the graduates of university entrepreneurship education has produced graduates who have the awareness of what is required to gain access to markets and opportunities available. These graduates have significant intentions to become entrepreneurial and are ambitious and are passionately seeking success.
- C. It is evident that the business environment in Nigeria is conducive for entrepreneurial development and growth; it is more of a threat than conducive.
- D. Facilities that the government ought to provide to make doing business conducive are either lacking or are in various stages of decay.
- E. The greatest obstacle facing the graduates is finance. The family, friends, and relations who have been the most supportive group of people are also suffering in the same hostile environment. The majority of the funds available to the young graduates are from this group of people. However, their ability to render assistance is reducing by the day. Improvement in the economic situation will by extension improve the assistance obtained from this group of people.

## 5.3. Conclusion

This research was undertaken with the assumption that there were significant impacts of government intervention as a moderator/mediator in respect of the subjective norm and entrepreneurial Intention of graduates of the BSc entrepreneurship programme in Nigerian Universities. The graduates' subjective norm is significantly open to the impact of government interventions, so long as these programmes are done in a very transparent manner. The graduates' knowledge and awareness of the importance of their family and friends as sources of assistance. They are aware that when the economy is conducive that this group of people are important sources of assistance especially their

advice, criticisms, and encouragement. The graduates are particularly aware of the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and are preparing for the post-pandemic economy. With improvements in the economic and business environment, the government has made possible the existence of a crop of graduates that can provide the needed entrepreneurial drive the Nigerian economy so dearly requires.

## 5.4. Recommendations

- A. There should be provision for employment of more qualified lecturers who are trained in entrepreneurship.
- B. There should be a provision for more interaction of the graduates with their lecturers after graduating to offer constancy and other support services when required by the students.
- C. Special-after graduation- local and international training should be organised targeting these graduates.
- D. There should be mass communicating of the value and importance of entrepreneurs targeted at parents and the older generation to educate them of the value of young people who aspire to be entrepreneurs and the value of their immense potentials in the job creation value chain as well as the other value chains in the economy.
- E. The Government programmes and agencies should improve the implementation of their intervention programmes. Making the graduates feel part of the nation is likely to make them more patriotic and work for the betterment of the country and be willing to fulfill their civil duties including paying taxes.

## 5.5. Suggestions for Further Studies

A study that explores the possibility of building a model of the TPB using Structural Equation modeling to replicate this study may also yield useful insights into this group of graduates and their entrepreneurship Intentions. This may likely yield a useful model that will assist the government practically and test further the extension of the theory of planned behaviour. Other studies could use the theory of reasoned action to assess the graduates based on their actions since they have set up their own business. Studies of graduates of other disciplines are possible. Cross-sectional studies are as possible involving -during and after graduation- studies.

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